

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 07267

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (KOHL, HELMUT), GW
SUBJECT: HELMUT KOHL PLANS TO VISIT US JUNE 25 - JULY 1

REFERENCE: BONN 7122

1. KOHL'S OFFICE HAS ADVISED US APRIL 19 THAT CHRISTIAN
DEMOCRATIC (CDU) CHAIRMAN AND OPPOSITION LEADER HELMUT
KOHL PLANS TO VISIT THE US JUNE 25 - JULY 1.

2. KOHL'S FOCUS AND PRIORITY FOR THIS VISIT WILL BE
WASHINGTON AND HE IS WILLING TO FIT HIS SCHEDULE
AROUND SENIOR APPOINTMENTS IN THE EXECUTIVE AND ON
CAPITOL HILL DURING THE WEEK OF JUNE 26-30. HE WOULD
SPECIFICALLY LIKE TO MEET WITH SECRETARIES VANCE AND
BROWN AND DR. BRZEZINSKI, PLUS LEADING FIGURES ON
CAPITOL HILL. IN ADDITION KOHL PLANS TO SPEND 1-2
DAYS IN NEW YORK AND WILL PROBABLY ADDRESS A JEWISH
ORGANIZATION. THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT IS TO UNDERLINE
THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHES TO GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

3. I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT KOHL BE ABLE TO MEET
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PAGE 02 BONN 07267 191106Z

WITH THE PRESIDENT DURING THIS TRIP. KOHL AND HIS PARTY
HAVE BEEN CONSISTENT SUPPORTERS OF US-FRG FRIENDSHIP
OVER THE LONG TERM, AND CONTINUE TO BE STRONG FRIENDS
OF THE GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP. SUCH A MEETING
WILL BE SEEN AS DESIRABLE NOT ONLY BY KOHL'S POLITICAL
SUPPORTERS (WHO RECEIVED ALMOST 49 PERCENT OF THE VOTES
IN THE LAST NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN 1976)

BUT WILL INDEED BE VIEWED AS NORMAL BY GOVERNMENT
FIGURES SUCH AS SCHMIDT AND GENSCHER. IN SHORT, AT A
TIME OF STRAINS IN THE US-GERMAN RELATIONSHIP, SUCH
A MEETING WOULD CONVEY A POSITIVE CONTINUING SENSE OF
INTEREST IN THE FRG AS A WHOLE.
STOESSEL

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